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ORO BLANCO

The Great Mining Camp of Southern Arizona.

A SHORT AND INTERESTING ACCOUNT

Of What Was Seen in a Flying Trip to the
Rich and Wonderful Camp of South-
ern Arizona.

This week THE OASIS man paid a flying trip to Oro Blanco. He was able to visit but a small part of that great camp; and what is here presented is in no wise a full account of what is included in the great mining camp of Southern Arizona. It simply includes what was observed over there in the course of a very few days. To give a full and accurate account of the camp would require several weeks than as many days:

THE YELLOW JACKET.

The Yellow Jacket mine is one of the richest and most noted properties in Southern Arizona. For many years Mexicans made money by reducing in arastras the float rock lying on the hill side and in the gulch below the ledge. Some three years ago it was developed systematically, a twenty stamp mill erected and a great deal of gold extracted. The shaft was sunk to a depth of 250 feet, and several large chambers of ore extracted. It was supposed to be exhausted and all operation was suspended for more than a year. Last year the property passed into the hands of Major H. A. Reed, formerly of the St. Patrick mine, and his associates. In September last the major resumed operations in the Yellow Jacket and set the stamps to pounding ore. He has developed new and immensely rich bodies of ore, and every week ships a bar of bullion worth from \$1500 upward. The richest ore has been lately encountered, and when he visited the mine Monday and Tuesday THE OASIS man was shown in a drift a breast of ore, with a rich streak three feet wide, the rock from which runs more than two thousand dollars per ton, and the ore outside of the streak assayed more than nine hundred dollars per ton. They had followed this rich ore fully eight feet, and it was still coming in strong in the face of the drift. It was estimated that every carload then going out of that drift was worth fully one thousand dollars. This ore is of a soft iron formation, easily broken, and the free gold standing out all over it, is plainly visible to the naked eye. Most of the ore running through the mill yields from twenty-five to seventy-five dollars per ton.

Major Reed has recently opened up some new ground with a tunnel. On both sides of a little ridge the float worked by the Mexicans had been very rich, single boulders having been broken up and yielded \$700 to \$900 each. He reasoned that the ledge cropping above was the source of these boulders. So he started a tunnel to cut the ledge. He is now within ten feet of the main ledge, which he expects to reach soon. But he has already cut through another ledge, some twenty

feet back, out of which he is getting rich sulphurets that yield \$60 per ton in gold and ten ounces in silver.

The Yellow Jacket has a fine twenty stamp mill working the Boss process which is doing remarkably good and effective work. It is perfect in all of its appointments, and everything is reduced to a system on which things move with the regularity of clockwork.

Mr. John W. Bogan is Major Reed's foreman in immediate charge of the mine and mill.

With the great bodies of rich ore he has developed and the fine reduction works on the property, Major Reed has in the Yellow Jacket a property which will prove a producer of the yellow metal for many years, and its success will add greatly to the fame of the Oro Blanco country and its importance in the estimation of investors.

THE MONTANA.

The Montana is being put in shape to be a regular and steady producer of metallic wealth. The large bodies of ore concentrate readily and the concentrates are very valuable, running about fifty per cent in lead and carrying good values in gold and silver. A large and substantial dam has been erected to store a supply of water for the use of the mill. Had the usual winter rains fallen it would now be holding all the water necessary to keep the mill in operation until the summer rains. The summer rains will fill the reservoir with such a volume of water that the mill can be run without cessation the entire year until the summer rains come again.

It is only about four weeks since the mill was started, and in that time some sixty tons of concentrates have been shipped and another large shipment will be made this week.

The two buddles which were erected with the mill can handle the pulp of five stamps only, and as a consequence but half the battery capacity of the mill is in operation. It is Mr. Cheyney's intention to erect two more buddles the coming summer, and the entire ten stamps will then be put in to operation.

Mr. Cheyney is to be congratulated upon the work he has accomplished at the Montana Camp within a very few months, and he can indulge in no little gratification at having put into working condition a great and valuable property.

THE OLD GLORY.

The Old Glory is essentially a low grade ore proposition—the great bodies of ore being of such a grade that require reduction in great quantities for the most economical and profitable operation. The contemplated new ownership will connect all the workings in such a way that the ore can be handled expeditiously and cheaply, and put up a large mill to handle several hundred tons of ore daily.

The present reduction machinery at the Old Glory consists of two Griffin mills, and six Triumph concentrators. Between the mills and the concentrators the pulp passes over plates which catch all the free gold, and the concentrators reduce the pulp to a very small proportion of concentrates, yet saving all the mineral. The capacity of the plant is about fifty tons of ore daily; but the rock is so hard that the Griffin mill is hardly suitable for handling it. The steel shoes and dies are very expensive and wear out too

rapidly—a new set being required every two weeks—which adds greatly to the cost of reduction.

The expected change will do away with all this and make the Old Glory what it should be—one of the great bullion producers of Arizona.

The property is at present in charge of Mr. George Hilzinger, receiver. It is reported that the owners have enlisted additional and heavy capital, that the debts of the company will be discharged, ample means devoted to development work, and a new forty stamp mill put in to reduce the ore. With all this done the Old Glory will be all its name implied.

ORO BLANCO MINING NOTES.

Lieutenants Leavell and Bachellier of Fort Huachuca, are opening a fine property not far from the old Austerlitz mine.

Mr. Nat Crocum of Oro Blanco is developing a fine property not far from the Warsaw. It is a free milling gold proposition, and he has now sunk about forty feet on a well defined ledge of good ore.

At his place near Oro Blanco Mr. Kirkpatrick has a veritable ore quarry out of which the pay rock can be thrown down as readily as building stone. It is a grey quartz running from \$17 to \$35 per ton in gold and twenty-two ounces in silver.

Messrs John and Mike Maloney have a fine mine about half way between the Montana and the Old Glory. A great deal of development work has been done, there is a goodly quantity of excellent ore on the dump, and concentration of large samples has given very satisfactory results.

Close to the McDonald mine, in the vicinity of the Old Glory Mr. Hyatt has a very promising ledge on which he has sunk a shaft about twenty feet. He has on the dump about 100 tons of ore which will run \$20 per ton. Tuesday he was arranging with Mr. Hilzinger to work fifty tons for him in the Old Glory mill.

Near the Warsaw Mine Trescott & Bogan are developing a fine body of ore. They have sunk a shaft on an incline, following the ledge, a depth of 115 feet, in ore all the way. They are now cross cutting, to determine the width of the vein. The ore is a free-milling gold ore which averages about twenty dollars per ton.

At Oro Blanco Wednesday, it was reported that an Italian known as "Angel" who has been working at the mine of John and Mike Maloney, has found a silver ledge near Tascosa, on the new road about twelve miles from the Montana mine. Rock from the croppings is pure "petanca," very rich and can be cut with a knife.

Mr. McDonald has a small one-stamp mill on his property, not far from the Old Glory, with which the ore extracted in development work has been made to pay all the expense, and he has a fine mine. He is now in Tucson, awaiting the arrival of those who will take an interest and erect a large mill for systematic and extensive reduction.

In the Last Chance mine, close to the Sonora line, Mr. Kirkpatrick has a splendid showing. The shaft is down fifty feet in good ore all the way. The ledge is intersected by a porphyry dike on the south side of which the ore is a smelting proposition, while on

the north side the ore is free milling. It runs sixty-one ounces per ton in silver and \$61 in gold.

ORO BLANCO ITEMS.

Lieutenant Bachellier is reported very ill at Fort Huachuca.

Mr. Thos. E. Hughes of Tucson is in charge of the store at the Old Glory.

Mr. Geo. Hilzinger was at the Old Glory this week. He returned to Tucson yesterday.

Mr. W. Bell has opened a meat market at the Montana mine, and is doing a good business.

Tom Gardner, and old Tombstone miner went to work at the Old Glory mine Wednesday.

General J. B. Allen, an old time Arizonan, conducts a prosperous mercantile business at the Montana Camp.

W. H. Walker, who has been putting in wood at the Montana Camp, is now engaged in hauling concentrates to the railroad.

Last Saturday George Cheyney of the Montana camp went to Tombstone to visit his family, returning to the camp Wednesday.

Major Jere Fryer, an old time Arizonan, and formerly sheriff of Pinal county, is in immediate charge of operations at the Old Glory.

G. Jenkins, at the fork of the road from the Montana mine to the Old Glory and to Oro Blanco, sells hay and grain, and good red liquor—refreshment for both man and beast.

Last week Mr. Ed Caine, engineer of the Montana mill at Oro Blanco, was at Nogales to meet Mrs. Caine, who had come from Tombstone to take up her residence at the camp.

Sunday last in the Montana mine, the foreman, Mr. Stillman, was hurt by a large rock falling on his ankle, bruising it severely and coming very close to breaking it. He was annoyed by it several days.

At the Montana are several old Tombstone and Bisbee miners. George B. Watts is foreman; Messrs H. Diehl and George Oakes run the battery; Ed Caine and J. Watts are engineers; and Mr. H. C. Stillman is foreman of the mine.

Cyril Helie, the amalgamator at the Montana mill, who had his foot badly mashed some weeks ago by getting caught and wound up by a shaft while oiling the machinery, has so far recovered that he is now able to limp about without the aid of crutches, and will soon be able to return to work.

Paul Heermans of the Citizen was in Oro Blanco last week. Monday afternoon he received word that he was wanted at Tucson as quickly as he could get in. He started on his wheel about 3:20 p. m. with an avowed purpose of reaching Tucson, a distance of eighty miles, in time to permit Herbert Brown to take the eleven o'clock train that night for Phoenix.

An itinerant peddler from Tucson has been furnishing a little amusement for the public in circulating derogatory stories about one or two of the boys in the Montana camp. Sunday night one of the boys called him down and thumped him a little. To evade responsibility he asserted that the story was told him by another man in the camp. The next day that man was hunting the peddler to thump him; but he had skipped.